

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8539

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINS CG ZA

SUBJ: SHABA INCURSION: SPILLOVER INTO ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 1881

1. SUMMARY: ZAIRIAN REPRESSIVE MEASURES IN SHABA HAVE A POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORSENING ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS ALREADY STRAINED BY ACCUSATIONS OF ZAMBIAN COMPLICITY IN SHABA INCURSION. LOCAL PRESS IS FOCUSING ON PLIGHT OF ZAMBIANS IN SHABA AND REFUGEES ARRIVING IN ZAMBIA AND ON ALLEGED INCURSION BY ZAIRIAN TROOPS INTO ZAMBIA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT HIS MAY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) PRESIDENT KAUNDA DENIED THAT ZAMBIA HAD HARBORED KATANGESE REBELS, ADDING THAT "ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT BROTHER MOBUTU WAS ILL INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION." KAUNDA WAS EMBARRASSED PUBLICLY WHEN HE PROJESSED IGNORANCE OF REBELS RETREATING THROUGH NORTH WEST
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ZAMBIAN WHEN QUESTIONED BY BBC CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD TALKED TO AND PHOTOGRAPHED ARMED KATANGESE. MAY 29 TIMES OF ZAMBIA MADE A BIG THING OF ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR'S FAILURE TO SUBSTANTIATE ACCUSATIONS THAT KATANGESE ENTERED ZAIRE THROUGH ZAMBIA. ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD FAILED TO MEET WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TO DISCUSS THE ALLEGATIONS BECAUSE HE WAS ILL. IF HE OFFERED PROOF THAT KATANGESE DID

IN FACT MOVE THROUGH ZAMBIA, THIS WAS NOT REPORTED BY THE PRESS.

3. FRONT PAGE OF TIMES OF ZAMBIA MAY 31 IS DOMINATED BY STORY ENTITLED "ZAMBIANS IN SHABA TERROR." CITING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM MWINLUNGA, MR. MANGANGU. TIMES ARTICLE STATES THAT 300 ZAMBIAN FAMILIES HAVE ARRIVED IN MWINILUNGA FROM SHABA. THESE FAMILIES HAVE RETURNED WITH STORIES OF A REIGN OF TERROR UNLEASHED AGAINST ZAMBIANS RESIDENT IN SHABA BY ZAIRIAN TROOPS. PM MANGANGU IS QUOTED AS DISCLOSING THAT ABOUT 500 ZAMBIAN FAMILIES ASSOCIATED WITH MINING IN KOLWEZI ARE MISSING, MOST OF THEM BELIEVE KILLED IN DOLWEZI "MASSACRE." PEOPLE IN KOLWEZI ARE "DYING LIKE INSECTS. ANYBODY FOUND SPEAKING ZAMBIAN AND ANGOLAN LANGUAGES WAS BURNT IN THE HOUSE OR SHOT DEAD BY ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS."

4. TIMES AND DAILY MAIL ALSO REPORT ALLEGED REPRESSIVE ACTIONS TAKEN BY ZAIRIAN TROOPS ON ZAMBIAN SIDE OF BORDER. ZAIRIAN TROOPS ARE SAID TO HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER AND ROBBED VILLAGERS OF FOOD AND MONEY. IN ONE INCIDENT, ZAIRIANS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED TO ABDUCT FIVE CIVILIANS AND A POLICE OFFICER BUT WERE FOILED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ZAMBIAN POLICE. ZAMBIANS REPORTEDLY ARE FLEEING BORDER VILLAGES TO ESCAPE HARRASSMENT.

5. MP MANGANGU DENIED THAT ZAMBIA IS HARBORING KATANGESE REBELS IN THE MWINILUNGA AREA. HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT WHEN REFUGEES

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ARRIVE IN ZAMBIA, ANGOLANS AND ZAIRIANS WERE SEPARATED FROM ZAMBIANS. ANGOLANS AND ZAIRIANS WERE SENT TO MEHEBA REFUGEE CAMP AND ZAMBIANS WERE RELOCATED AROUND MWINILUNGA.

6. COMMENT: REPORTING FROM EMBASSY KINSHASA AND LUBUMBASHI LENDS CREDENCE TO STORIES APPEARING HERE OF REPRESSION DIRECTED AGAINST ZAMBIANS, PROBABLY MOSTLY LUNDA SPEAKERS. SUCH STORIES WILL FURTHER STRAIN ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS ALREADY HARMED BY ACCUSATIONS AND DENIALS ABOUT ZAMBIAN COMPLICITY IN THE SHABA INCURSION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND CERTAINLY ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL SHARE MUTUAL INTEREST IN NOT LETTING RELATIONS DETERIORATE TOO FAR. EACH HAS TOO MUCH TO LOSE FROM INTERFERENCE OF THE OTHER WITH VITAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTES (ZAIRIAN RAIL TRAFFIC TO RHODESIA AND ZAMBIAN ROAD TRAFFIC ACROSS THE PEDICLE).
MALTREATMENT OF ZAMBIANS IN ZAIRE, FREE FIRE ZONES ALONG THE ZAMBIAN BORDER AND INCURSIONS BY ZAIRIAN TROOPS INTO ZAMBIA HOWEVER COULD CAUSE SOME ZAMBIAN SABER RATTLING ABOUT CONTINUED SUPPLY OF FOOD AND POL TO SHABA AND RAIL TRAFFIC TO RHODESIA.

LOW

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